GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA) YARD FACT SHEET

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
KENNEDY SPACE CENTER
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

Location

The General Services Administration (GSA) facility is located at Kennedy Space Center (KSC) on the south side of Ransom Road about 1.5 miles south of the intersection of Kennedy Parkway and NASA Causeway.

History

The GSA Reclamation Yard is a NASA-operated facility that was constructed in the late 1960s to facilitate the recycling of a variety of equipment and chemicals used by KSC. The facility ( ) includes a former hazardous materials building and several storage warehouses and sheds, and comprises an area of approximately 7 acres. Past and current operations at the GSA Reclamation Yard include the storage of office equipment, air conditioners, transformers, batteries, lawn mowers, paints, solvents, pesticides, oils, and adhesives. However, the solvents are no longer stored on site. A RCRA Facility Investigation conducted in 1998 indicated that VOCs, chlorobenzenes, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) would result in an unacceptable increased human health risk if the groundwater was used as a source of drinking water. In addition, exposure to elevated concentrations of PCBs in soil would also result in an unacceptable risk to human health. A Corrective Measures Study (CMS) was completed to evaluate cleanup alternatives for soils and groundwater. In 2003 an Interim Measure (IM) soil excavation was performed to remove exposed PCB-contaminated soil.

Treatment

The final corrective measure for soil contaminated with PCBs above cleanup levels at the GSA Reclamation Yard is excavation and off site disposal. The remedy for groundwater contaminated with PCBs and chlorobenzenes above cleanup levels in the northeast corner of GSA is dewatering and treatment during PCB soil excavation. The source area contaminated with VOCs will be dewatered and excavated. A chemical oxidant will be added as a final remedy followed by long-term monitoring.

PCB Excavation and Dewatering

For this remedy a dewatering system will be installed to lower the water table for soil excavation. The dewatering system will consist of a dewatering pump and well point system, a groundwater treatment system, and an effluent disposal system. After the dewatering system lowers the water table below the anticipated excavation depth, the PCB contaminated soil will be removed. Excavated soils will be disposed of off-site and treated water will be discharged to the closed loop ditch system surrounding the site.

VOC Excavation, Permanganate Introduction and Long Term Monitoring

A dewatering system similar to the one for PCB excavation will be installed. After the dewatering system lowers the water table below the anticipated excavation depth, the VOC contaminated soil will be excavated. Soil initially classified as hazardous will be placed into roll-off bins and treated by soil vapor extraction (SVE) in an effort to decrease VOC concentrations. The non-hazardous and hazardous soil will be disposed of off site. A chemical oxidant, sodium permanganate, will be added to the open pit of the excavation. Clean fill will be used to backfill the excavation. Treated groundwater will be discharged to the closed loop ditch system surrounding the facility. Long-term monitoring will be utilized to document the decrease in concentrations due to natural processes.

Conclusion

Excavation and dewatering are considered the best cleanup alternatives for the site because the source of contamination will be removed. Long-term monitoring of the dissolved VOC plume will be in place to allow natural processes to reduce contamination to acceptable levels. Institutional controls have been implemented to assure that groundwater is not being used for drinking water and that there is no residential exposure to soils.

This Fact Sheet was written and produced by the NASA/KSC Environmental Program Office. All comments or questions can be made by calling (321) 867-8414 or by writing to the following address:

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